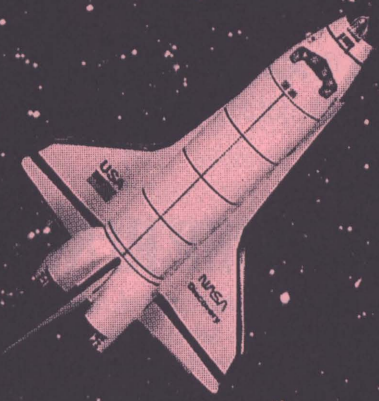


June 90

THE
AUSTRALIAN

U.F.O.

BULLETIN



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WELCOME

The Society welcomes reports of unusual phenomena. These are evaluated on their own merits and if requested are kept in the strictest confidence.

The Society exchanges information with similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public information on local, interstate and overseas developments in its quarterly publication, the "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin", which is posted to all members.

All communications should be addressed per the return address shown on the rear of this bulletin.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For details of your membership renewal, refer to the month/year coding on the address label of your latest bulletin. This indicates the last bulletin for which you are financial - we would appreciate your renewal by the date shown.



Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

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Contents

PAGE	ARTICLE
EDITORIAL	2-3
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	4-5
ON THE UFO TRAIL	6-7-8-9-10
THE TURRIFF GROUND RING	
SUMMARY	11-12-13-14-15-18-19-20
TERROR ON THE NULLABOR	16-17
WHAT PRICE CRITICISM!	21-22
UFO AFRINEWS	23-24
UFO NORWAY NEWS	25-26-27-28
PHANTOMS OF THE SKY	29
THE MYSTERIOUS BERMUDA TRIANGLE	30
FORUM HEARS ABOUT 'UFO VISITORS'	31

EDITORIAL

For many years, VUFORS has been interested in the increasing numbers of mystery circles appearing all over the world. Although the formations have been found on all types of ground surfaces, they are more noticeable in wheat fields and other crop growing areas. Some of these circular rings have been found where UFOs have been seen on the ground.

The best known circle found in Australia was caused by a silver/grey disc which rose out of a swamp near Tully, Queensland on 19th January, 1966, at about 9.30 am. The object rose slowly before accelerating and speeding away. The UFO left a 30 foot circle in the reeds, swirled in a clockwise direction. A more recent encounter where a UFO was seen rising from the ground leaving a circular ring occurred on 9th October, 1989, and is covered in our March Edition by John Auchettl. There have been other cases which will be published from time to time.

We are fortunate to be in direct contact with ufologists in England, who are also researching the phenomena in that country. Although objects have never been seen on the ground where the circles have been discovered in England, the strange formations have been found during periods of UFO activity.

It is interesting to note how anti-ufologists "investigate" these rings. Recently the TV program, BEYOND 2000, illustrated the theory of Dr. Terence Meaden, in England. His theory is that natural vortices or whirlwinds are causing the formations. Meaden's "solution" requires areas where hills are located to give the growth a swirling motion.

Dr. Meaden's theory falls short of explaining circles found in the Mallee wheat fields of N.W. Victoria, where the land is completely flat. We have pointed this fact out to colleagues in England. The reply was that circles were found on flat land there also but Dr.

Meaden did not take interest in flat land areas. Circles located in such areas do not qualify for his theory due to the lack of hills. In short, anti-ufologists concoct a non-UFO theory and select only the cases or that part of an incident that fits their anti-UFO bias.

Does not that method of "investigation" sound familiar concerning UFO research around the world? If it does not fit anti-UFO debunking attempts, don't mention it. If it cannot be explained, ignore it or merely say it did not happen.

Some individuals have become emotional when presented with facts that disprove their preconceived opinions, to the degree of complaining to editors of newspapers and other publications for printing news on UFO activity. "Scientific" publications detest the mere mention of the subject.

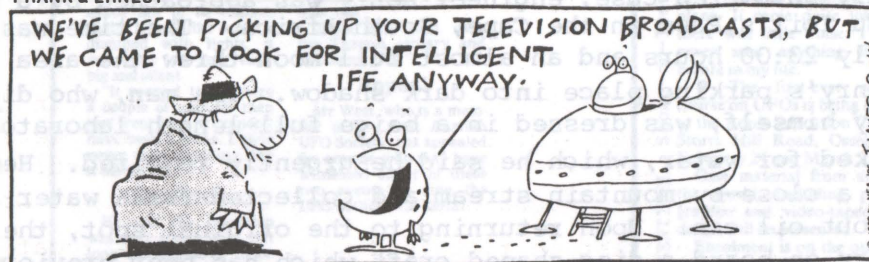
When the phonograph of Edison was demonstrated publicly for the first time, an orthodox scientist became angry, leapt to his feet and shouted that the "demonstrating engineer is a ventriloquist and a fraud." Thus, the behavioural pattern of orthodoxy today toward UFO observers and ufologists.

Paul Norman

Those members who are interested in Circular Research may care to read the book The Scientific Myopia. Details of the Tully, Queensland circle are published in the book by Stan Seers, former president of the Brisbane Group. Address: Stan Seers, 290 Hawksbury Road, Winmalee, N.S.W. 2777. Price: \$15.00 postpaid.

FRANK & ERNEST

BY BOB THAVES



We would like to thank our typist, tance in the preparation of this Elizabeth Cousins,,for her assis- publication.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN

Dear Sir,

I refer to your publication for December 1989 and Paul Norman's article regarding the importance of water to UFOs.

I have been seriously investigating the UFO phenomenon in Africa for about 17 years now. My early belief was that the purpose of the 'alien' probes was for minerals such as uranium, as they often appeared (in Africa) in places where uranium and other limited minerals were being mined or expected to be found. Over the years I have discarded this theory as their first prerogative. However, Paul Norman's postulating water, is certainly a thought to be seriously considered.

In one case, C.V. (1978) was living with his wife and daughter on a remote horse-farm in Natal, S. Africa. A corrugated water tank on the property was kept filled for the horses' trough. The tank was filled on the particular day and that evening UFO activity was reported in the area. The following morning, the tank was empty. The ground beneath the tank was dry and an examination by the local water engineer showed no cracks. The algae at the base of the tank appeared to be drawn upwards as though considerable force had been used to withdraw the water from above.

In a recently uncovered case, engineer Henry was approached by a man on top of du Toit's Pass in the Cape, South Africa. The time was approximately 23:00 hours and an almost full moon threw the area opposite Henry's parking place into dark shadow. The man, who did not identify himself, was dressed in a beige full-length laboratory coat and asked for water, which he said he urgently required. Henry took him to a close-by mountain stream and collected fresh water in a cleansed out oil can. Upon returning to the original spot, the man invited Henry on board a disc-shaped craft which had been previously obscured by the darkness. He told Henry that the water was required for a colleague who had been injured on entry into our atmosphere. Once inside the craft, Henry saw 3 other men standing over the injured

man and the water was given to them. Unfortunately, Henry could not see what was done with the water: did the stricken man drink it, or was it put to other uses? Whatever happened, the water appeared to be of prime importance.

It seems to me that Paul Norman's postulation about water needs further study on an international basis.

Thank you also for mentioning my publication, UFO AFRINEWS. The third edition of this is due out in May of this year.

Yours sincerely,

MUFON Co-ordinator for Africa.

Cynthia Hind

STANDARD RECORDER, Southend, England

Sept. 16, 1988 CR: T. Good

Spaceship sighting claimed

FOUR friends claim to have spotted a spaceship hovering above a Laindon shopping centre.

The friends were walking through Essex Close, when they saw the spaceship at about 10.15pm on Friday. One of them, who asked not to be named, said: "It was like a black diamond with lights, it was quite low and really big and silent."

"It seemed to be there a couple of minutes then just went past. It couldn't have been a plane. I have never seen anything like it before."

Hovering

He said the spaceship was only about 10 — 15ft long and appeared to be hovering at about 200ft.

His sighting has been backed up by independent reports of a UFO spotted in the Thames estuary,

Southend area earlier in the week.

UFO expert Ron West said: "On September 4, four independent witnesses saw what they described as a multi-coloured square-shaped object, lighting up like a Christ-mas tree."

"This was seen over the Thames estuary and Southend area."

Appeal

Mr West, who is a member of the East Anglian UFO Society, has appealed for anyone who may have witnessed either of these two events to ring the UFO hotline 0728 830757.

Dec. 7, 1989 CR: T. Good
STOKE-ON-TRENT, ENGLAND
EVENING SENTINEL

UFO sighting

An amazed Laycock pensioner watched a glowing object shoot across the night sky.

The capsule-shaped UFO hurtled low across the village before disappearing.

Last Thursday night's incident is the latest in a string of reported UFO sightings around Laycock and Oak worth.

The 67-year-old woman, who does not want to be named, says: "It was definitely not a plane. It came quite low but there was little noise. I have never seen anything like it before in my life."

● The first-ever college course on UFOs is being staged at the Adult Education Centre, Storrs Hill Road, Ossett, on February 24 and March 3.

Case material from around the world, including photographic and video-taped evidence, will be presented.

Enrolment is on the opening day and costs £8.

ON THE U.F.O. TRAIL

Paul B. Norman

(C) 1990

The Mallee (NW Victoria) has been a hot bed for UFO activity for decades, how much longer we really do not know. However, for the last several years we are fortunate and grateful that VUFORS members Vera and Bert White and Allen Wilson of Mildura have been paying attention to events taking place in that area for years. Allen Wilson's first sighting occurred while he was serving in the RAAF, when he was crossing the Nullarbor by train several years ago. All three have been active members, including co-operation with their local press and radio talkback.

More recently, Nancee Jolly and family, as well as their neighbors, have become involved in trying to solve the world's greatest riddle. Mystery circles on the ground are becoming more interesting, especially since Vera and Bert, with two other witnesses, observed an object in a field on September 25, 1976, near Werrimull. The time was about 11.30 pm and they were returning from a visit with friends. As they went around a bend in the road they observed what they at first thought was a shooter's car in the field, with all rear lights on, including

brake lights. When the object began to rise into the air they knew it could not be a spot shooter's car. Bert immediately stopped the car. Mrs. White heard a low humming sound. She was sitting on the left side of the car with her window down. The object rose straight up to about a 30 degree angle from the ground, then flew horizontally to their right before shooting straight up again and disappearing into the night sky. The Whites' noted the position of their car with reference to some trees. Next day they returned to the spot with the owner of the property, where they found a 72 foot circle of discolored vegetation.

Samples were taken from the centre, edge and 100 feet away from the circle, for control analysis. Mrs. White did an experiment of her own. She planted grass seeds in soil from the sections. The grass seed from the centre barely germinated. Grass from the edge of the circle grew but was stunted

whereas the seed planted in soil taken 100 feet from the circle grew normally. Two years later when wheat was planted in the same field, Vera visited the site again and found the wheat in the circle was stunted when compared with growth outside the circle.

Two years ago, during a period of UFO activity, circles were found in a wheat field, similar to other circles where at the centre of the circle the wheat stems were still standing. The column of standing stems was a few feet in diameter, all with sharp edges. Investigations of these and other physical trace cases recently found are continuing. Water samples from nearby farm dams are also being tested.

If the doughnut rings were caused by a doughnut shaped object, there are several cases on record where such objects have been seen in the air. One of the most reliable cases in VUFORS files occurred on 21st September, 1961, when a sighting was witnessed by two airline crews near Wake Island. Both aircraft were flying from Japan to Honolulu, Hawaii. Captain R.F. Griffin, the pilot of a British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC, now

British Airways) plane, reported the sighting to control towers at Wake Island and Honolulu. The reports were forwarded on to the American F.A.A. The incident was confirmed by the captain of a Pan American Airways flight flying in the area at the same time. Captain Griffin's description, as reported to traffic controllers, was that the sky was grey at the time, with the reflection of light from the rising sun shining on the doughnut shaped object. The UFO was round with sharp edges and a clear hole was distinctly seen in the centre. It was travelling in the same direction but quickly out-distanced the 707 jets. The encounter occurred during a peak period of UFO activity over the Pacific. The interesting research into the cause of these circles continues. Are they caused by doughnut shaped UFOs?

On 25th February this year, the Adelaide Sunday Mail published a review of the book The 1990 UFO Report by Timothy Good. The review concentrated on the chapter concerning the Knowles family encounter on the Nullarbor Plain, written by myself on behalf of VUFORS (reprinted in this

edition). In the 4th March edition of the Sunday Mail the former regional director of the Bureau of Meteorology, South Australia, tried to debunk the case. (See copy of his letter reprinted herein). It is an amusing letter which reveals an apparent subconscious fear that the UFOs are real. The sceptic even rebukes the Sunday Mail for printing UFO news. Yet sceptics write reams of papers attempting to explain UFOs away and insist their dry, so-called "scientific" papers be published.

It has come to my attention that the writer has written a lengthy paper on the Knowles case and it is not surprising to see that his chief reference source is... .., wait for it...Philip Klass! Klass is the failing debunker in the United States who has attempted to bury the UFOs for decades. He is an unsuccessful undertaker - his buried UFOs refuse to stay undercover. Klass has tried both sand and dirt, as well as mud for his covering material. He has been unable to come up with anything concrete to keep them down.

A second point of amusement is that Meteorology has the poorest record of any department with regard to predictions. If one doesn't believe that, look out the window regularly and watch the liquid sunshine. The writer states we are "asked to ignore the results of detailed inspections by the SA police department." The fact is: the Superintendent of SA Police is quoted as saying they only had two specks of dust from the car and would not investigate.

The letter mentions the Australian Mineral Development Laboratory (AMDL). The facts are: the gentlemen from AMDL ignored the excessive amounts of dust inside and on top of the car and did not include the burned black potassium particles. Normal potassium particles are white. The spokesman from AMDL stated on Channel 7, Adelaide, that the right rear tyre, which was damaged all way around, "was caused by running at high speed on the rim." The fact is the rim would have been damaged if this had been true. The letter states that UFO research groups throughout Australia had found nothing mysterious about the car. May I ask

what UFO research groups? To my knowledge, VUFORS is the only organization that did any expensive on the spot investigations, assisted by doctors, engineers, and scientists. Mr. Brunt must have been listening to some member or members of the Australian Skeptics. The fact is that members of Australian UFO research groups as well as those from overseas are eagerly awaiting the full Knowles encounter report.

The letter states that science says nothing unusual was found about the car. Mr. Brunt carefully avoids mention of the mysterious sightings by witnesses other than the family, as well as the effects on car, family, and dogs, who knew nothing about UFO "beliefs".

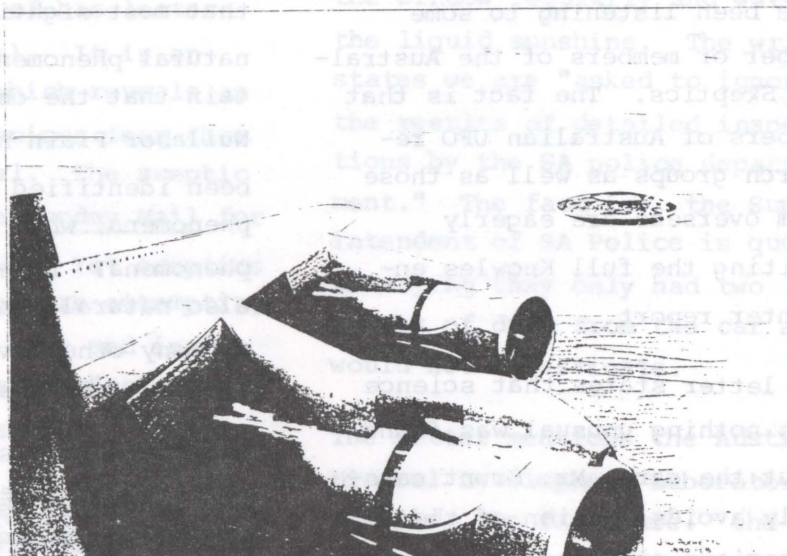
Look what science has said down through the centuries. The result is that so-called science is not necessarily fact. Much progress has been made in many fields because people have dared to ignore "science". In fact, to ignore "science" is sometimes the only way to get out of the same old worn out rut.

Mr. Brunt's letter states "scientists throughout the world say there are natural explanations for these alleges extra-terrestrial visitations." I agree that most sightings are known natural phenomena but I maintain that the objects over the Nullabor Plain have not as yet been identified and if natural phenomena, what sort of natural phenomena? Life and people are also natural phenomena, as well as many other events down life's pathway. So what?

Mr. Brunt is a self-confessed anti-UFO believer and like the whole body of sceptics who leap for seemingly weak spots (usually misinformation introduced by armchair experts who do not get any further from their seats than the nearest tea pot), ignore the massive evidence of solid incidents from all parts of the world, by people from all walks of life, including scientists.

Those interested in UFO news should write to their local new newspapers and express interest in the activity. Editors are under pressure from lobbying factions to suppress such news.

Have some fun, watch the sceptics scurry for cover and poke their heads in the sand. Expect an increasing number of sand dunes all along the UFO Trail.



John W. Auchettl
1990 Feb.

The Turriff Ground Ring Summary

(C) 1990 John W. Auchettl

INTRODUCTION

SYNOPSIS:

On the 6th of December 1989, harvesting began on a 600 hectare wheat field adjacent to a farm house. The farm is some 9000 hectares in size and owned by Max and Nancee Jolly. Located in the Western Victorian wheat belt (The Mallee district) and just on the east rim of the "BIG DESERT". Not long after the harvesting had started, 4 rings were found in the field. After some further examination, another 8 rings were located, also within the field.

GENERAL

DISCOVERY DATE:

The rings were originally found by two male contractors MR BRIAN FINCH and AUSTIN GRACE, who were hired to "HEAD" (cut) the wheat for the Jolly family.. From a vantage position some 5 metres (16 feet) above the ground on their harvester (International Combine Harvester) the rings at the top of the wheat field rise were first observed. This first discovery revealed only four rings. It was at a later date that Mr STUART JOLLY discovered another central ring and seven more rings along the lower fence.

The contractors then contacted Mr MAX JOLLY and indicated their discovery was of some importance as they had heard about such rings before but had never seen one. The two men indicated that, as far as they knew, no one had an explanation on how such rings were formed. The family were not convinced at first about the importance of the rings but after some discussion, Nancee and Stuart Jolly decided to report the incident to a Melbourne paper, the "TRUTH" (Ref: Dec 16th 1989) by JOHN PINKNEY.

OCCURRENCE:

This phenomenon had never been seen before by any member of the family. Nor has such a phenomenon been recorded on surrounding properties or by surrounding farmers. The rings were of such importance

and interest that the locals from as far away as 15 kilometres (10 miles) around had entered the property to look and handle the soil.

LOCATION

RING SITE LOCATION:

The rings are located in a field some 0.3 kilometres towards the south from the farm house in an adjacent wheat field.

TERRAIN & GROUND COVER:

The terrain is lightly raised to very flat, dry with no rivers, and very little tree growth. There was no live vegetation on the immediate ground.

INVESTIGATION

RING DESCRIPTION:

The area had twelve (12) ground rings. Each ring had very straight, very well defined walls. The walls separated the wheat that was still standing and the wheat that had been laid down. There were no other defined markings located. Most rings were grouped in pairs moving down the hill rise in a "J" CURVE pattern. The larger rings were towards the south and up the rise and the smaller ones were at the fence line at the north end of the field. The axis through the central point of each ring pair pointed in a straight line towards the north-east.

RING MEASUREMENTS:

The following rings were found on the site:

- a) Two (2) 12 foot (366 cm) rings.
- b) One (1) 9 foot (274 cm) ring.
- c) One (1) 8.5 foot (259 cm) ring.
- d) One (1) 6.5 foot (198 cm) ring.
- e) Five (5) 6 foot (183 cm) rings.
- f) One (1) 4.5 foot (137 cm) ring.
- g) One (1) 4 foot (122 cm) ring.

ROTATION DIRECTION:

All 12 rings had been flattened in a rotary manner and in an anti-clockwise direction.

WHEAT STEM PATTERNS:

The mature wheat stems had been laid down in a crossed over, layered and woven pattern. In four (4) rings the central wheat was still upright and not effected. The radius size of this central core varied from sample to sample.

RING DEGRADATION:

The ring started to disappear some four (4) weeks after the reported detection. This degradation may have been mainly caused by human interference at the site. The large amounts of people who came to look at the rings soon started to destroy the evidence, until the rings totally disappeared.

HUMAN & ANIMAL ACTIVITY:

There was no obvious animal (bird, fox, sheep, ant) intervention over the site. There was no animal excrement, markings or tracks. There was no human intervention at the site. Neither human markings and tracks nor vehicle tracks were found.

RESEARCH

MAGNETOMETER TESTS:

Magnetometer tests were carried out on the rings and surrounding area. These results will be released at a later date. However, major anomalies were recorded.

RADIATION:

Tests conducted at the site for radiation particles detection proved negative. Apart from some normal background radiation, the soil was (NOW) not radioactive.

WEATHER

WEATHER:

Weather for that time of the year was confirmed to be clear, cool, and no rain. No major thunderstorms or lightning had been reported over the past two months.

WIND:

The wind in the adjacent and surrounding area can be quite high. However, the field in which the rings are located is sheltered to some degree.

RAIN:

No rain for the last 3 months. The location was very dry.

WATER:

Water levels are at their lowest since 1967. There is no surface water in the area. The only reserves of water exist in the RAIN TANKS adjacent to the farm house and the earth reservoir. Levels in the earth reservoir are down by two metres and are visibly low.

MOISTURE CONTENT:

The water content within the ring area was tested and found to be zero (0).

WHEAT OBSERVATIONS

STEM:

The stems were NOT crushed. The majority of the stem groups were warped or twisted at the end some 28-30 cm from the base or 40-42 cm from the top in a semi-circle shape.

The stem had been bent over at the base area some 1 cm to 2 cm from the top soil surface. It was bent in an anti-clockwise direction at the base and then lay flat on the ground surface. The top quarter length of the wheat stems were then bent or wrapped in a semi-circle pattern, interwoven with the other wheat stems.

EAR (HEAD):

The ears on the majority of the stems were warped or twisted in a lazy "S" shape.

SEED:

No seeds were lost at all. The pods were in very good condition and not crushed or damaged at all.

LEAF:

The majority of the lower leaf was covered in black spots. These spots ranged in size, however, the average dimension was recorded at 0.43 mm (0.017 inches) wide by 2.54 mm (0.1 inches) long.

SOIL OBSERVATIONS

SURFACE HARDNESS & GLAZING:

The upper soil was very hard and the surface was glazed, very shiny, smooth with no rounded edges, and compact in texture. If it was struck, it would ring or make an audible "KNOCKING & RINGING" sound. There were very few loose soil grains in the main rings as everything was hard. It gave the appearance that the area had been cleaned or brushed and a hard bed rock was left with outer weathered edges.

Where the plough furrow/trough should have been, soil was present. Unlike the other parts of the field where ridges of raised soil exist with the wheat planted, in the flat, hard areas the ridges were not defined. On the rings found near to the fence these ridges were also very small, but the soil was not hard.

SURFACE INDENTATIONS:

On very close examination of ring #4, no unusual markings, tracks, indentations, cracks or cuts were found. This examination was restricted to the ring surface only and the outer area was not checked due to the magnitude of the operation. If any of the above markings were present outside the ring they were not obvious to the naked eye. This outer area seemed normal with the raised and furrow/trough pattern still within the soil.

CONTINUE PAGE 18

Family's trip of terror on the Nullarbor

FORMER US Navy man, hydro-electric and thermal-electric engineer, Paul Norman, couldn't believe his luck on the morning of January 21, 1988.

He woke up in Melbourne to hear news reports on his bedside radio about "some sort of UFO incident on the Eyre Highway across the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia".

Since observing a strange object approach and hover over a Tennessee power station in 1953, Mr Norman had developed an interest in UFOs, stimulated when he watched United States Air Force Major Donald Keyhoe being cut off mid-sentence on a coast-to-coast broadcast when Keyhoe was attempting to tell the public about official UFO investigations in the US.

Mr Norman emigrated to Australia in 1963 but he didn't leave behind his quest to explain the inexplicable and continued to investigate UFOs, retiring in 1976 so he could devote his time to UFO research.

It's his story on "UFO Encounters along the Nullarbor Plain" which dominates the UFO Report 1990.

It was world-wide — maybe interplanetary — news. A mother and her three sons, the Knowles family from Perth, had been picked up and dumped by some sort of flying machine with bright lights.

This is the (adapted) Norman report: We learned it happened before daylight after the family had left the Madura Roadhouse and were heading east towards Mundrabilla, when they sighted a group of lights.

They thought at first these were street lights but then realised there were no street lights in that part of the Outback.

During the three-hour interviews with the mother (Faye) and her three sons (Sean, Patrick and Wayne Knowles) we were told several details of the encounter.

Beginning about a quarter of an hour before the lights were first spotted, the car radio started malfunctioning, with a lot of static and other noise which continued for the entire period on the encounter.

At another stage Sean saw another light ahead. He thought at first it was a truck with one headlight, but as he got closer he saw it was not a truck but a strangely glowing light either on the road or hovering slightly above ground. It was on his side of the highway so he had to swerve to the wrong side of the road, and looked up just in time to see an approaching car pulling a caravan. They almost collided.

Soon after the near collision, the Knowles met another vehicle, with a light flying at the same speed above it.

By this time, Sean's curiosity got the best of him and he made a u-turn and sped back towards the west to see what the light was. After chasing it for a few moments the light changed course and headed towards the Knowles' car.

Sean then made another quick turn, and as he was speeding towards the east again, the object overtook the car and landed on the roof with a thud.

Patrick said the object seemed to grab the car and began to pull it up. At the same time he yelled out, "Why us?"

"We did not know what to do," said Patrick. "The

dogs (two) started to go crazy."

All four of the humans felt as if they were about to die. Patrick said he felt as though his brains were being pulled from his head. Sean (the driver) did not realise the car was in the air until it dropped back to the ground, bursting the right rear tyre. He thought he was doing 200km/h (120mph) to escape from under the UFO.

(The car was a Ford Telstar which, according to the manufacturer, could never reach such a speed on the ground. Tests in Adelaide, with the Telstar's wheels locked, showed the speed to be 200km/h.)

While the object was on the roof, Faye rolled down the window so she could reach up and touch the

object. It felt like a warm sponge and she thought it might be a suction pad.

She began to scream. Patrick, in the front passenger seat, rolled down his window and dust started pouring into the car.

When Sean pulled her arm back inside it was covered with this dust. She said there was an odor like decayed bodies.

Sean said at one stage he was "out cold" and could not remember some of the details related by other members of the family. During the time the car was in the air their voices sounded as though they were talking in "slow motion".

When Sean brought the car to a stop, all jumped out and hid in the bushes along the side of the highway until the UFO flew away.

The family described the object as a white light about the size of the car, with a yellow centre "like an egg cup". The sound was similar to a humming transformer. They changed the tyre as quickly as possible before speeding on to Mundrabilla, where they talked about the frightful experience with three truck drivers.

Norman and John Auchettl of the Victorian UFO Research Society continued their investigations, starting with the car.

They found the radio, which had played up, was operating perfectly and the dents on the roof of the Telstar were found to be just as the family described — very slight with the largest one about the size and depth of a saucer.

The tyre was found to be damaged from a blow-out and was ripped all the way around the circumference (police reports later said there was no reason, save for a nail or some other object being picked up, why the tyre should have blown. All tyres on the Telstar had good tread).

But it was the dust which covered the car which fascinated UFO investigators. Early reports after limited testing in Adelaide said it was consistent with "brake dust" — something which might appear inside and outside a car when the brakes are blown.

So Norman and Auchettl sent samples to the state-of-the-art Philips Laboratory in the US and, because of the demand on the labora-

tory's time, had to cool their heels waiting for the report.

It came from Dr Richard Haines, the lab chief, and was dated July 12, 1988, and was headed: "Scanning Electron Microscope Results of Mundrabilla Dust and Other Samples".

Says Mr Norman: "The interior dust was not from the brake system of the car."

This was in direct contradiction to the original findings reported by the analysts in Adelaide.

"The Philips Laboratory analysis also revealed the presence of oxygen, carbon, calcium, silicon, potassium and others."

"The analyst found fibres of typical pipe insulation but it is not asbestos."

"Atomic element 85 (At; astatine) is also possible in the sample as is a relatively long fibre of NaCl which is unusual."

Mr Norman points out "Astatine is a radioactive chemical element that has no stable isotopes synthetically produced in 1940 at the University of California, where scientists bombarded bismuth with accelerated

alpha particles (helium nuclei) to yield the element 85 Astatine."

"After the reaction, it has

a half life of only seven to

eight hours before decaying."

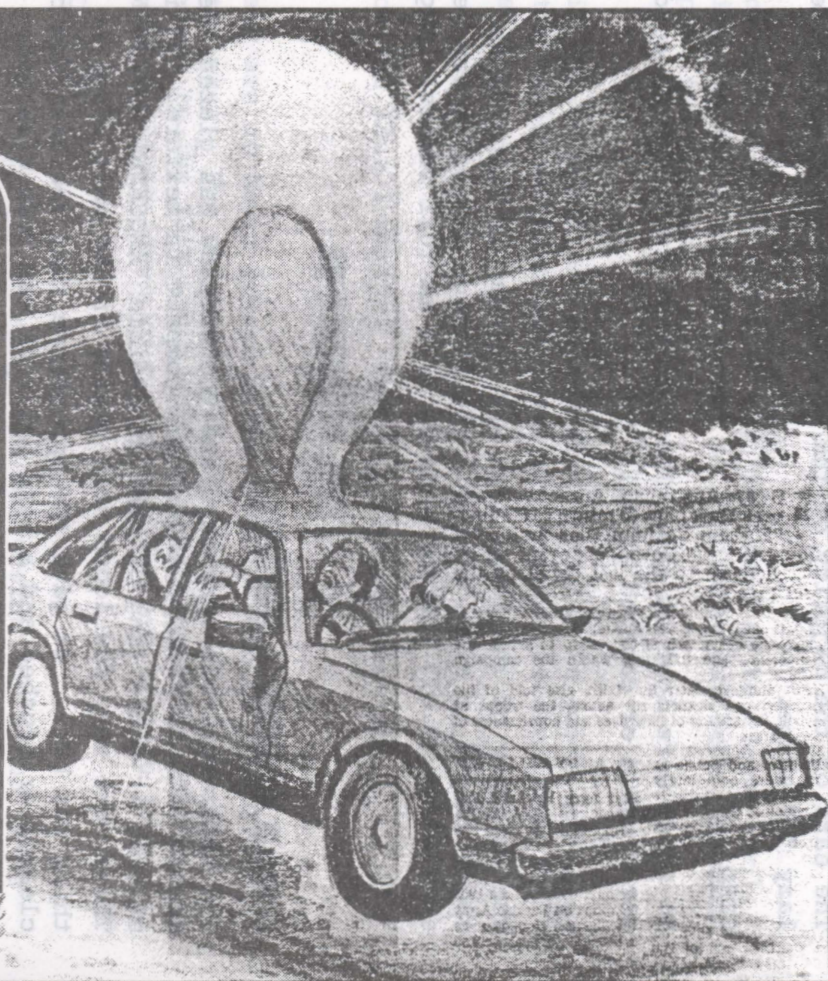
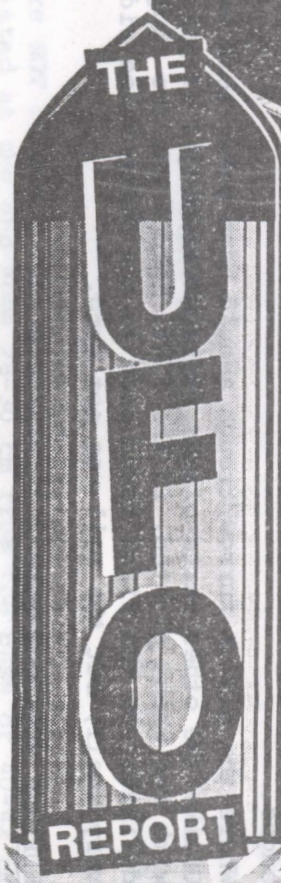
"The Knowles did not arrive in Ceduna, South Australia, until 1pm after the pre-dawn encounter."

"Naturally the Astatine, if that is what it was, would have decayed by that time." Mr Norman lists other reports of UFOs around the areas of the Nullarbor and the Great Australian Bight on the night the Knowles had their encounter.

But he draws no conclusions in his submission to The UFO Report, 1990, ending with: "Before we know what is happening, there are more reports to check out and much more research remains to be done."

"Meanwhile, the UFOs that have terrorised motorists on the Nullarbor Plain have not as yet been satisfactorily identified."

Adapted from UFO Report, 1990, edited by Timothy Good. Available through Pan Books (Australia) Ltd. Recommended retail price \$19.95.



The object began to pull the car up.

DO you believe there's someone out there? Little green men, mysterious craft blipping through radar screens? Has an alien life force been visiting planet Earth for thousands of years?

Whether you believe or not, the phenomena of the Unidentified Flying Object won't go away.

Author Timothy Good has taken on governments and the military on the subject of UFOs, particularly with his novel, Above Top Secret. Now Good has compiled The UFO Report, 1990. And one of the most telling pieces in the UFO Report, 1990, happened here in South Australia. CAROLYN BEAUMONT reports.

Terror on the Nullarbor



The Knowles family (from left) Patrick, Wayne, Faye and Sean, and the burst rear tyre of their sedan.

SUB-SURFACE SOIL HARDNESS:

The sub-surface soil was just as hard. It was very grainy, compact and broke away in clumps in the softer areas. It looked as if some liquid or glue had soaked into this layer and set the layer hard.

SUB-STRUCTURE:

There was no pattern, layering, or sedimentary structure in the hardened upper layers. It resembled compacted ploughed soil with past major pieces of organic materials present.

BAKED QUALITY:

The hardened layer on examination had the characteristics of a baked or kiln clay brick or pottery that had too much sand in it to guarantee strength.

DECAY QUALITY:

Even with this hardened nature, manipulation and rolling over a period of time would reduce the hardened layer to a state similar to soil outside the ring. The hardened soil would decay in a group or clumping pattern until the single grains of sand and dirt had been reduced to a small size or individual pieces.

WEIGHT:

The weight of the samples was impressive. Their compact state seemed to give the hard soil considerable weight.

HOLES:

In some of the main samples structure, a pattern or network of holes was present. These holes are very small in diameter: 0.5 mm to 0.9 mm. The holes never reached the surface area and went to a maximum depth of some 50 mm.

At first they resemble WORM or ANT caves but on closer inspection they do not connect to any destination. Their position, direction, and length was random. But the shape is constant and varies very little. They are not caused by root growth at all. No living insects were found in the holes and no insect residue. All the holes

display the characteristics of pockets of trapped gas, very similar to volcanic PUMICE STONE, except the cavities are less in volume and constant in form and shape.

GRAIN GROUPS:

The soil is clumped together by large groups of sand grain. In some locations within the holes, the sand grains or dust seems to be hanging, plastered, or glued around the circumference of the cavity, in individual grains.

MAGNETIC SOIL MATERIAL:

A very strong bar magnet wrapped in a plastic bag was placed in the soil located within the rings. With a towing action, the magnet was pulled through the soil and raised on a periodical basis for examination. At no stage was any material seen to be attached to the magnet. This test was also carried out on the sub-soil within the rings and the soil outside the rings.

UNUSUAL INCIDENT

At about 9 o'clock one night in MAY 1989, 700 ewes and lambs kept in a field some 1 kilometre to the west of the Jollys home became panicked, distressed, and went berserk. They were in a mob, bleating and running about uncontrolledly, stumbling about wildly all over the paddock. STUART went outside and looked around. In the direction of the field and between two trees he saw a YELLOW light above the ground. STUART thought someone was out spotlighting (shooting) the sheep.

He decided to go and investigate and drove his car out the front gate around towards the west and up to the area where he had seen the light. But by now he could not locate the light at all. However, he now could hear a weird high-pitched sound similar to a jet engine from a helicopter or a very large group of CICADAS. All this noise seemed to be coming from the dark sky.

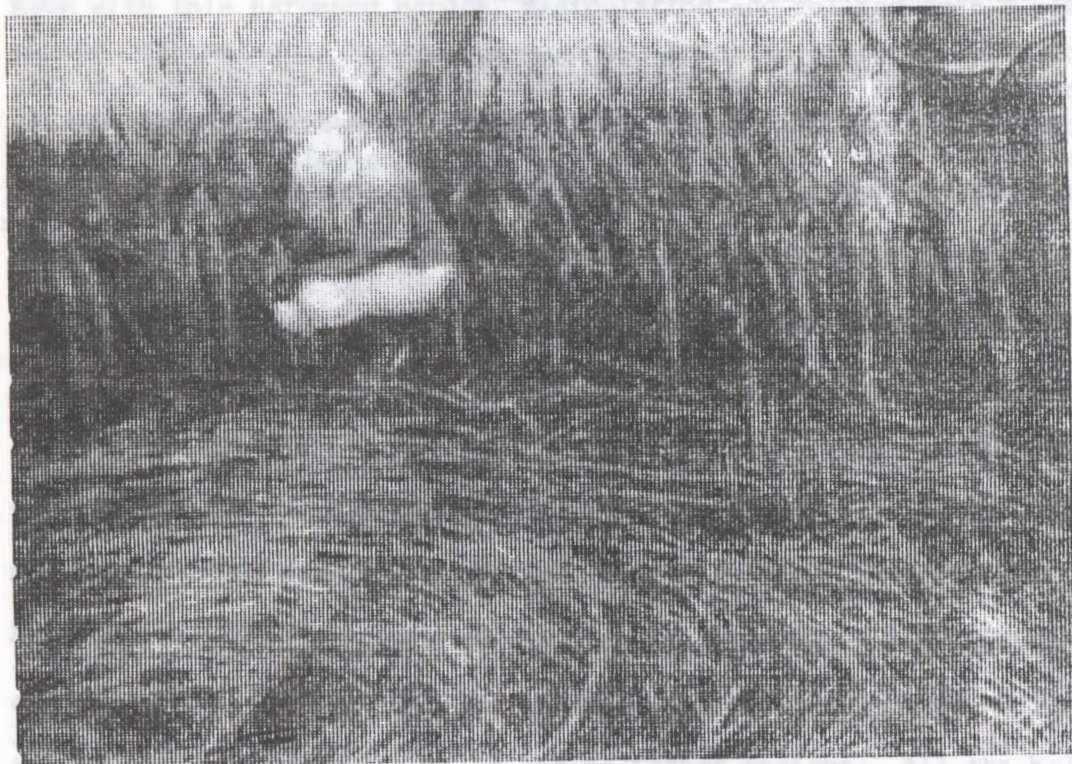
Soon after midnight, Max and Nancee Jolly arrived back home from a 21st birthday party to be told of the incident. Even at that stage the sheep were still distressed. The family then decided to re-investigate and drove back up to the location. To their amazement,

they observed a very large WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE with a 2 metre wingspan in a dazed, disoriented and drunk condition, stumbling around in the same paddock with it's wing spread out and touching the ground. It would flap it's wings but seemed not to be able to fly.

Next morning when the family went back to have another look, the eagle had gone and no trace of the light origin was ever found.

CONCLUSION

Further research is now being carried out on the soil and some of the tests and readings we were able to make. The assistance and hospitality given freely by the Jolly family has been of great importance to us and I thank them all for their work and ongoing assistance. AN EXPLANATION FOR THE RINGS HAS NOT BEEN FOUND!



What Price Criticism!

At the conclusion of her "UFO Afrinews" (June 1989), Mrs. Cynthia Hind wrote:

IN CONCLUSION

Criticism is a commodity which is generously lavished on all those who investigate UFOs and whilst I am the first to agree that uncritical work is often inaccurate, sloppy and un-coordinated, I do feel that often, too, there is so much criticism that the basic truth of the story is almost completely lost.

Recently, the Gulf Breeze UFO in Florida, USA (MUFON JRNL Aug '88 No 244) is a case in point. Briefly, this is a UFO sighted by an anonymous 'Mr Ed' and photographed by him on several occasions with a Polaroid camera. He was not the only witness, although his are the only pictures. It seems, though, that his background is not as impeccable as it might be, and the possibility of a hoax is obviously evident, with seemingly several points to prove this.

Nevertheless, they have not been proven and until such time - despite their alleged authenticity - aren't we being presumptuous in assuming fraud?

A few years back I was opposed to the way Hilary Evans (a Ufologist

for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration!) handled the Broadhaven case in Wales, UK (1979). There was some good evidence, part of which was mis-handled by various investigators, but on the whole it was one of the best British cases. However, a witness had been involved in a police matter where he was charged and convicted and served a prison sentence. On the basis of this, his evidence was thrown out with the dishwater. It is true that his story involved the teleportation of cattle and might very well have been questionable, but it was not discarded because of this. The other witnesses, some of whom were children, whose evidence was verified by their teacher Beth Morgan and accepted by the Headmaster, Llewellyn, was ignored; as was the evidence of several other reliable witnesses. I think the British were so busy denigrating the witnesses that they lost sight of the basic importance of this case.

So, it is true that one cannot be an investigator without acute critical faculties on one hand,

but tolerance and understanding on the other.

Here in Africa, the same sort of criteria apply. In the Rosemead Tennis Court Affair (UFOs - AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS, Ch 13, p 126) a professor from Witwatersrand University was interviewed on television shortly after the happening. He was asked how he accounted for the trail of destruction across the tram lines of the tennis-court. He smiled in a superior way. "Of course, it was a whirlwind", he said. He did not once visit Rosemead, nor did he question a single witness.

He had not read a report on the overall findings, nor did he realise the extent of the report and the witnesses involved (police, army, schoolteachers). For years afterwards, I had to contend with his 'summing-up' of what had occurred in Rosemead - 'It was a whirlwind, of course.' Not taking into account the two days I spent there, talking to those involved, having discussions with the Chief of Police for the area ('the most puzzling case of my career'), corresponding with Harold Truter, the Headmaster of the school where the damage occurred, and the original witness to the destruc-

tion of the court, I had also spoken to all and sundry who could throw any light on the matter. I have been back to Rosemead since then, and all is normal: those who were never there still swear that it was a whirlwind, or lightning (on a cloudless, sunny day?!) and those who were involved know that it was something they will never understand.

It reminds me of the story of two jets from the Zimbabwean Air Force which chased an object moving from Bulawayo to Gweru (their Base). The Commander of the Air Force agreed that it was an unidentified object. However, when I subsequently discovered that the previous day a 40 metre weather balloon had been released by the French Space Agency from South Africa and had drifted into Zimbabwean air space, I notified the Air Force.

But the Commander would not accept my explanation. "My pilots know an unidentified when they see one", he told me! You just can't win, can you?

The point is, where does one draw the line? And if an investigator is logical, truthful, and reliable - even those without a scientific degree - at what point do you question the wisdom of his/her evidence.

Ufo Afrinews

CASE 5: Travelling Car, Worcester-Beaufort West, 1952/53

DG, now resident in Harare, Zimbabwe, was living in Worcester Cape in South Africa at the time. He was part of a bowls team entered in a weekend tournament at Beaufort West, playing for the Karoo Cup.

On the Friday after work (about 5 pm) four bowlers left on their journey: George A, John R, Charles C, and DG himself.* It is a 357 km trip and they stopped off at Laingsburg for coffee and a snack. About 20 kms outside Laingsburg, DG was dozing when he was nudged awake by Charles who pointed out of the window.

"I saw what appeared to be a glowing green ball of a misty substance a couple of metres to the side of the car." It appeared to be hovering as they passed.

A few moments later it came up from behind; first the interior of the car lit up with a greenish glow, then it moved over to the front. As it passed the car, the engine cut out and it stopped.

George re-started the motor when the object was about 200 metres in front, and they drove on.

The object then went into reverse and again the engine cut out. They climbed out to look at it.

DG goes on: "The object had then moved to the left, remaining stationary about 400 metres away.

It appeared to us (and we discussed this) to be about the size of a large tractor wheel, but I was only able to see a dim,

somewhat circular shape through what seemed to be a brightly glowing mist around it. We had no camera so could not attempt a photograph, and decided to move on. George was leaning against the car and said he felt unwell and his eyes hurt. He had looked right into the light when it flew over the car when he was driving.

While we were getting into the car, the object shot away rapidly, almost vertically, and vanished.

At Beaufort West, where we arrived late, the hotel manager hunted up a chemist to get something for George's eyes which were now swollen and sore. The other three of us had no after-effects.

We signed a statement and sent it in to the Cape Times but received no acknowledgement. The incident was briefly written up in the local Worcester paper. No one else at Beaufort West - as far as we could ascertain - saw anything".

COMMENTS:

a) The Karoo is a large, mainly arid area of South Africa where numerous UFO sightings have taken place, e.g. Danie van Graan's case, the Rosemead Tennis Court case, and numerous vehicle interference cases.

b) Damage to eyes and an 'after effect' illness, usually with nausea, are evident.

c) The hovering of the object, movement forwards and backwards, marks this as an unknown, as opposed to a meteorite or other identifiable natural phenomena.

d) Typical reaction of the press, ignoring the report and thus in a way, undermining the confidence of the witnesses.

* Names held by the Editor.

Credit: UFO AFRINEWS

P.O. Box MP49

Mt Pleasant

Harare ZIMBABWE

AFRICA

VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

The Victorian U.F.O. Society (VUFORS) is interested in receiving reports from witnesses who have observed unidentified flying objects at close range and/or experiences related to the strange phenomenon. Names will be kept confidential.

VUFORS, a member of the International Committee for UFO Research, is the largest UFO research organisation in Australia, currently supported by the country's most senior UFO investigators and is in the direct contact with leading scientists who are endeavouring to solve the UFO enigma. Those interested in this subject may subscribe to the Australian UFO Bulletin which covers highlights of local, interstate and foreign activity.

All correspondence should be sent to P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria 3189.

UFO-Norway News

STRANGE SIGHTINGS IN GUDBRANDSDALEN

Date: Friday 6 November 1987

By Per Ottesen

Time: Between 02.00 and 02.30 am

Duration: Ca. 30 min.

Place: Between Tretten and Favang in the Gudbrandsdalen valley

Witnesses: Anny and Line Favang

Nature of Sighting: Hatshaped object with "claws" and multiple light points

During the last 5-6 years we have intermittantly received reports from the Gudbrandsdalen valley, indicating small and large UFO "waves". For a prolonged period, there have been very few reports from this area. However, during the fall of 1987, several observations were registered, including this extraordinary sighting made by a mother and her daughter.

Anny and Line Hammervold were driving up the Gudbrandsdalen valley after a foreign visit. This valley is one of Norway's longest and is situated in the southeastern part of the country. When they had reached a location between Tretten and Favang (about 4 km north of Lillehammer), Line observed that her mother was driving more and more slowly. She asked if something was wrong and Anny then directed her attention toward a light in the sky.

She told that she had kept an eye on it for awhile, because it had shifted position and also had come closer. In the beginning she thought it was a plane, because she could see windows on the side of it, but finally she became convinced that this it couldn't be. Now they both

observed the light. It moved in a stepwise manner, e.g. it made fast movements and then made intermittent halts. After having come closer, it appeared as a "hat" or a "soup plate" being inverted. The witnesses could now see that the object's shape was made up of lightpoints, with about two lights on top and four underneath (the witnesses are not sure of the exact number).

Underneath the object two "feet" were hanging down. They were a bit bent and one of the witnesses compared them with "crabclaws". The feet were sprinkled with tiny lights, in such a way that they glittered as if mounted with diamonds. They blinked regularly, about the same frequency as that of a direction indicator on a car

or a little slower.

Suddenly the object lit up and got a strange, dark green colour.

During this phase of the sighting they observed very clearly the single light points which made up the whole object. Then it shifted back to the original white light. During this part of the observation the object had shifted position between south and southwest, and was now standing in such a way that they could observe it above a ridge.

The cloudcover was dense and relatively low, and this sets limits to the object's altitude during the observation. They both think that the object was closer than the ridge, which at this particular place is at a distance of about 1 km. The

witnesses now stopped the car, in order to concentrate on what they saw. They had been tired after the trip, but now they felt wide awake and excited. They weren't afraid, even if they felt they were intensely

"watched". One of the witnesses put it this way: "We felt it as having contact with something or someone." They tried flashing their car lights, but didn't get any reaction from the object.

Suddenly, a yellow disc (or sphere) larger than the full moon came out of the object and steered right towards the car. The speed was enormous and both the ladies reacted spontaneously

by screaming. The disc tore along right above the car, made a turn "as when throwing a boomerang", and disappeared out of sight. During the short time this was happening, the clouds were totally lit up by the yellow light. Several cars had passed during the observation, but when the yellow light was shining, one car suddenly made a distinct slow down before driving on. The witnesses are sure that the person(s) in the other car must have seen the same as they did, at least the yellow light. UFO-Norge has tried to reach other witnesses through the local newspapers, but has had no success.

The object was now moving towards the west. There it disappeared for about 5 minutes (probably because it moved above the clouds) but became visible again shortly afterwards. It moved further up the valley and finally disappeared.

The observation was made Friday 6 November 1987 between 02.00 and 02.30 am, i.e. for at least half an hour. The weather was cloudy and the clouds drifted fast across the sky, in such a way that the witnesses could glimpse the moon from time to time. This celestial body was positioned right behind them (in the SE). The witnesses were certain that no stars were

visible, and except for the 5 minutes when the object was gone, it was always observed below the clouds. The distance to the clouds was also relatively short, especially in the midst of observation. The temperature was about 0 degrees Centigrade, no precipitation and almost without fog, in an otherwise misty area. The witnesses had the engine running throughout the entire observation. All windows in the car were shut, too. Hence, they didn't detect any potential sound, although they categorically deny that it could have been a plane or another kind of aircraft or conventional phenomenon. They are also certain that it couldn't have been any sort of a light reflection, since they made certain of this especially. The witnesses themselves are convinced that they observed a UFO, here in the sense of a spacecraft or a craft being of unknown origin.

When I talked to the witnesses the evening after the observation, they were still excited and happy for having been granted such an experience. There is no doubt that Anny and Line have seen something which has made a great impression, and that this experience will "stick to them" for a long time.

Astronomical data:

(The points of time are approximate within 10 minutes). The sun set at 4.05 pm the day before (5 Nov.) and rose at 8.00 am 6 November.

The moon rose at 5.20 pm 5 Nov.; in the south at midnight and set at 7.50 am Friday morning. The moon was full at 5.46 pm Thursday 5 Nov.

The planets' positions was the following (approximate):

Jupiter: Rising at 3.20 pm, in the south at 10.15 pm (5 Nov.), setting at 5.20 am 6 Nov.

Venus, Mars and Saturn were not visible.

Additional Observations

During the first week of 1988 the author was contacted by a man from Gausdal who claimed to have seen strange phenomena three nights in succession. Gausdal is situated just 10 km SW of Tretten in the Gudbrandsdalen valley. The witness reported phenomena resembling the "first phase" of the November 6 sighting. Further more, Mrs. Anny Hammervold contacted the author once more sometime after this, reporting of seeing the same phenomenon as the Gausdal witness. She was together with a friend this time, giving her additional confirmation. However, the two groups of witnesses were independently reporting the same phenomenon (or at least very similar ones) from

opposite sides of the mountain. Evidently, there have been something extraordinary at play in the mountains of Gudbrandsdalen.

- Sources:
1. "UFO" nr. 4 1987, pp. 4-5.
 2. "UFO" nr. 1 1988, p. 26.
 3. Almanakk for Norge (Almanac for Norway) 1987.

Credit: UFO Norway News
Published by UFO - Norway,
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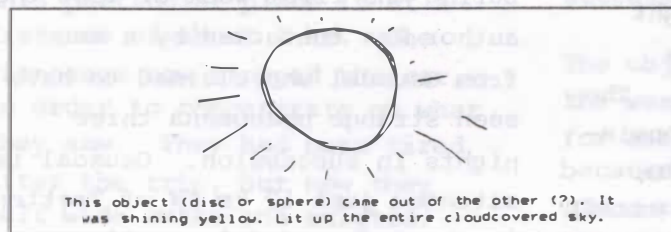
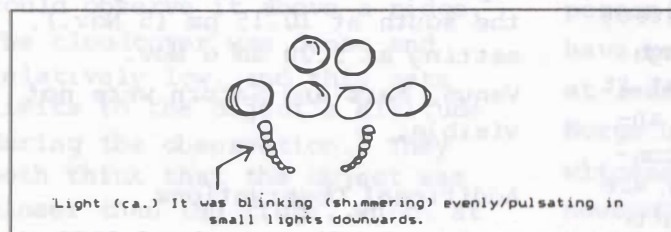
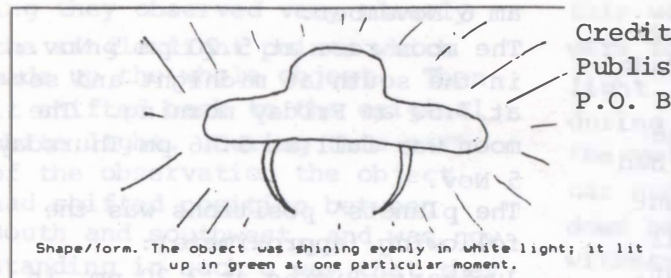


Fig. 1. Line Hammervold's own drawings and comments made the day after the observation.

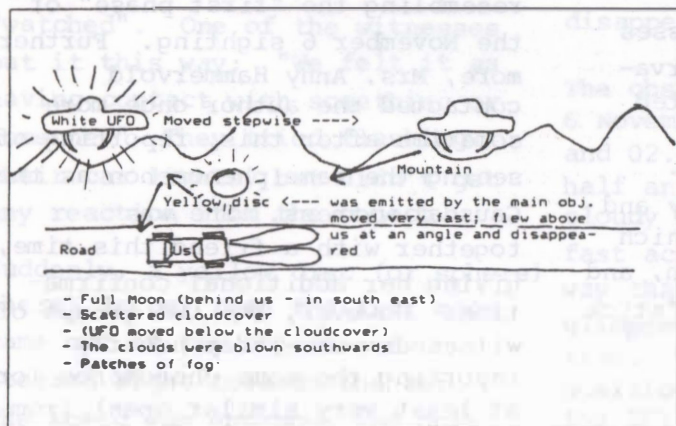
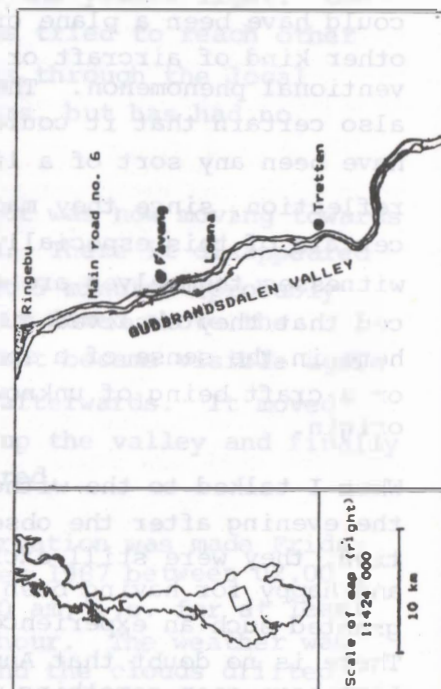
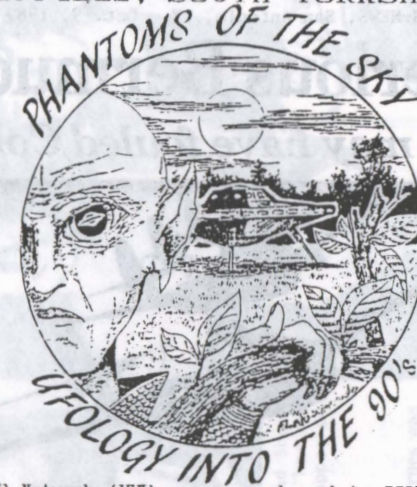


Fig. 2. One of the witness' drawing of the situation.



UFO CONFERENCE
14th & 15th JULY 1990
CENTRAL LIBRARY THEATRE
SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE



The Independent UFO Network (IUN) are very pleased to present the only truly International UFO Conference of 1990 to be held in the U.K. Entitled "PHANTOMS OF THE SKY-UFOLOGY INTO THE 90's", the conference is a two day event designed to give the latest in ufological research at all levels of interest in the subject, with a particular slant on where the subject has been and where it is headed. Speakers who have accepted an invitation to make a presentation are as follows: SATURDAY 14th JULY: BUDD HOPKINS (USA), PETER HOUGH (UK), ANDY ROBERTS & DAVID CLARKE (UK). SUNDAY 15th JULY: JOHN KEEL (USA), BUDD HOPKINS (USA), PERRY PETRAKIS (FRANCE), PAUL DEVEREUX (UK), JENNY RADDLES (UK), (Master of Ceremonies Philip Mantle).

This is just a preliminary outline of speakers, more will be added and we hope to have an Australian ufologist to give his opinion on the subject and its development in Australia. Specific conference details will be supplied with tickets.

THE VENUE

The Phantoms of the Sky conference will be held at Sheffield's Central Library Theatre, in the very centre of Sheffield, opposite the famous Crucible Theatre. Those of you who have been to other IUN events at this location will know that it is easily accessible by rail and road, being only 400 yards from the train and bus stations and with ample parking nearby. The Library Theatre itself seats 260 people, is angled for ease of vision and has comfortable seating. In addition there will be a bar selling both alcohol as well as tea and coffee, open for both days. Additionally there will be a first class book and magazine stand with both new and second hand UFO books and periodicals available. Conference proceedings, consisting of summaries of papers presented will also be on sale along with a special conference issue of the IUN's magazine 'UFO BRIGANTIA'. Obviously ticket demand is going to be high to see the calibre of speakers such as Keel & Hopkins (both of whom incidentally have never spoken in this country before) and you are urged to book now to avoid disappointment.

Ticket prices are: Saturday £4.00, Sunday £5.00. Special two day ticket price is £8.00. Please make cheques payable to: 'MARTIN DAGLESS' and send to; PHANTOMS, 84 ELLAND ROAD, BRIGHOUSE, WEST YORKSHIRE, HD6 2QR. If you require any further details you can either write to the above address of telephone; (0484) 721993 or (0924) 444049.

PHANTOMS OF THE SKY IS THE EVENT TO BE AT IN 1990. BE THERE.

The mysterious Bermuda Triangle

Shadowy zone may have fouled Columbus' compass

By JACK KEASLER
Special to the Express-News

The mystery of the Bermuda Triangle — a 15-million square mile area in the Atlantic between Florida, Costa Rica and Bermuda where ships, planes and people seem to vanish under mysterious circumstances — began with Christopher Columbus on his voyage to discovery of the New World.

On Sept. 1, 1492, Columbus wrote in his ship's log that the compass on the Santa Maria malfunctioned and frightened his sailors.

On Feb. 13, 1926 — 436 years after Columbus — Lindbergh wrote in the "Spirit of St. Louis" flight log that his two compasses malfunctioned at night over the Florida Straits (in the Bermuda Triangle) and that he was 300 miles off course and flying in the wrong direction when he determined where he was.

On Dec. 5, 1945, Lt. Charles O. Taylor, pilot of the lead plane in a squadron of five Navy Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers on routine patrol reported by radio to the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station tower that his compass had malfunctioned and said, "We are lost!" The five Grummans vanished, along with a Martin Mariner seaplane sent out to search for survivors. Lost with the aircraft were 27 airmen. It was the greatest peacetime aviation disaster in Navy history.

The legendary evils supposedly lurking in the Bermuda Triangle are too numerous to be listed. One theory is that it's where UFOs arrive and depart, shielding their presence with an electronic wave that plays havoc with compasses.

Some say the area undergoes periodic electromagnetic disturbances, is subject to atmospheric and gravitational aberrations, and connects at times with a "hole in the sky" into which ships, places and people vanish.

Less bizarre is the belief that whole thing is a hoax, like Scotland's Loch Ness monster. This theory is that coincidence has a role in some occurrences, and that everything happening in the area can be explained if all the facts are known.

Does anything explain why, during the last century, 50 ships, about 29



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

A squadron of five Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers like these shown here vanished in the Bermuda Triangle.

aircraft and almost 1,000 people have disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle?

A Naval Board of Inquiry investigated the theories about the Bermuda Triangle and all the facts about the disappearance of the Grumman Avengers, the Martin Mariner seaplane rescue aircraft and 27 airmen.

The board was told that patrol by the Grumman Avengers was routine and identical to patrols flown daily. Each aircraft was airworthy and carried sufficient fuel.

Evidence indicated that two hours after Lt. Taylor reported to the tower that his compass was malfunctioning, communications faded out completely.

It was then, the board was told, that a Martin Mariner seaplane, capable of landing and taking off in heavy seas, with a crew of 13 and full survival and rescue gear aboard, was sent to search for survivors. The Martin Mariner failed to report by radio at the appointed time, 8:30 p.m., and was never heard from again.

The Grummans and Martin Mariner each carried self-inflating life rafts and all crew members wore life jackets. For a month before the board met, a thorough sea and air search was made of the Bermuda Triangle in the flight range of the missing plane.

The search turned up no trace of the aircraft or crew members — no

wreckage, no debris and no oil slicks.

The board came to no positive conclusions about what happened. Possibilities were that Grumman Avenger crew members had not been adequately trained in ditching-at-sea procedures; also that panic may have developed; and that a sudden drastic wind change (now called "wind shear") could have been the cause. The board concluded that gasoline fumes leaking into the cabin of the Martin Mariner were ignited by a spark, causing the aircraft to explode.

The board absolved Taylor of any blame. A member of the board is reported to have said, "The aircraft and airmen vanished as though they'd flown to a distant planet."

Then there's the Lindbergh case. Why was he flying over the Bahamas, apparently heading east, when the direct route from Havana to St. Louis was slightly west of due north, and some 300 miles west of the Bahamas?

Did Lindbergh deliberately fly into the Bermuda Triangle to satisfy a curiosity he may have had about the legendary evils lurking in the area? The flight log tells all we will ever know about what happened.

He tells what happened with the longest of all entries in the log — 56 words. In contrast, he used three words — "flight carry mother" — to log the ride he gave Mrs. Lindbergh in the plane.

He left Havana on Feb. 13 bound for St. Louis' Lambert Field. The straight-line distance of some 1,000 miles — would should have taken 10 to 11 hours if flown non-stop.

His flight log reads, "Havana to Lambert, St. Louis, 15 hours 35 min. Earth-inductor compass and liquid compass card malfunctioned over Florida Straits (on the western edge of the Bermuda Triangle) at night. Earth-inductor needle wobbled back and forth, and liquid compass card rotated without stopping. Haze prevented recognizing position from stars. At daybreak 300 miles off course over the Bahamas. Compasses resumed normal operation over the coast of Florida."

Was Lindbergh in danger? The answer has to be yes. Any pilot, lost at night with a spinning compass, is in a dangerous situation. A lesser pilot could have panicked.

Forum Hears About 'UFO Visitors'

By HAROLD EGELN, JR.

Sitting near a warm Bay Ridge fireplace last Friday night, three women told their stories about "close encounters" with "alien visitors" who drive those mysterious Unidentified Flying Objects.

THE HEARTH in the home of a Bay Ridge Forum member, who hosted the group's monthly program, served as a storytelling setting for the December topic on "UFOs, First Hand Accounts."

From Manhattan came Lorie Barnes, mother of five grown children and grandmother to nine. From Bensonhurst came two sisters.

Since 1987 Barnes has been secretary for controversial writer Whitley Strieber, author of non-fiction best sellers "Communion," now a movie, and "Transformation."

Strieber claims they are "true stories" of encounters with "non-human intelligences."

"WHETHER YOU BELIEVE Strieber's story or not is unimportant," Barnes said.

Claiming 15 close encounters with alleged "visitors," she calls herself "a mediator between the visitors and the human race."

When "Communion" hit the bookstores in early 1987, her son told her to read it, saying, "Mom, it sounds like the story of your life."

AN EARLY ENCOUNTER came in East Meadow, Long Island in 1954 as she and her brother were playing with a Ouija Board. Suddenly, Barnes told her rapt audience, the following message came through:

"I am from another planet. I am Soltec. Go outside. In ten minutes you will see my ship."

Exactly ten minutes later, Barnes said, "we saw a glowing bluish silver ship 100 feet" above them.



Bensonhurst sisters Sarah Hartmann and Sherri Tenenbaum told Forum members they've "had experiences" with "the Visitors" whose faces appear on Whitley Strieber's books.

The "visitors" returned in 1959 when Barnes was pregnant with her second child and living in a Jackson Heights apartment.

While in bed reading a natural childbirth book, she related that she "heard a tremendous commotion" in her kitchen which frightened her.

"THREE LITTLE bluish-gray men with odd hats came into my room," she claimed, as various members of her audience showed varied reactions.

Experiences in Bensonhurst were related by sisters Sarah Hartmann and Sherri Tenenbaum, as their wary husbands listened.



Boy Ridge Forum president Horriet Rosenberg with Lorie Barnes. They hold copies of "Communion" and "Transformation."

"In 1978 I saw a ship in the shape of a large black box floating over the courtyard," Hartmann said.

"MANY ARE SKEPTICAL," commented Forum member Phil Birnbaum. Tenenbaum replied, "I never believed in this myself until my first UFO encounter."



MEMBER

International Committee for U.F.O. Research

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia

DISCUSSION NIGHT

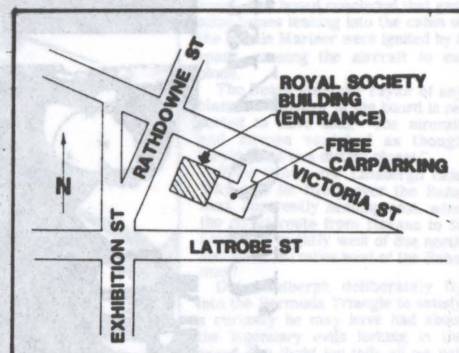
For Your Diary

JUNE	4th 1990	MEETING
SEPTEMBER	3rd 1990	MEETING
DECEMBER	3rd 1990	A.G.M.

TIME 8.00p.m.

WHERE "The Royal Society of Victoria"
Victoria Street, Melbourne (SEE MAP)

COST	FULL MEMBERSHIP	NO CHARGE
	ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$2.00
	NON-MEMBER	\$3.00



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

V.U.F.O.R.S.

FULL MEMBERSHIP:	\$15	— Magazine
		— Free Meeting Entry
		— Free Supper
ASSOCIATE MEMBER:	\$10	— Magazine Only
OVERSEAS:	US\$15	— Magazine Only

SOCIETY HISTORY

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered – this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

In 1978, following the resignation of Mr. Peter Norris the current executive, Mrs. Judith Magee, Messrs. Paul Norman and Clive Yates, was placed in control, ensuring the continuing prosperity of V.U.F.O.R.S. The Society has held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in general meetings and discussion nights and maintained the largest U.F.O. library in the southern hemisphere. Unfortunately, the loss of books, probably due to the high cost of postage has forced V.U.F.O.R.S. to discontinue this service to members.

Membership of this Society – which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere – is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

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